








# Look Back to MOVE FORWARD

Saying Based on the Akan Sankofa Symbol



## VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

### OCTOBER 2004

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# Newport News new home of regional office

**By Sean P. Smith and Bob Carter**

The files are moved, phones plugged in and updated letterhead has been ordered for DHR's relocated Tidewater Region Preservation Office, formerly in Portsmouth, now in Newport News.

TRPO Director Randolph Turner and his staff are setting up shop in the 1884 Warwick County Courthouse, an imposing Italianate-style building located in historic Denbigh's Courthouse Square. Also located at the site are the original 1810 Warwick County Courthouse, a Civil War memorial and two highway markers.

"We are very excited about the new opportunities for the department as we partner with the City of Newport News."

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**Randolph Turner,  
Director,  
Tidewater Regional  
Preservation Office**

in historic Denbigh's Courthouse Square. Also located at the site are the original 1810 Warwick County Courthouse, a Civil War memorial and two highway markers.

"We are very excited about the new opportunities for the department as we partner with the City of Newport News and their many successes in preservation," said Turner. Those opportunities include efforts to help expand a City archaeolog-

ical program for the City's interpretive efforts, assisting Newport News to qualify for designation as a Virginia Certified Local Government and Preserve America community, and cooperating on projects with local historical groups. "The site provides a central, accessible location and superb historic setting from which to serve the 30 counties and cities in the Tidewater region."

The home of the new regional office served as

*Please see Tidewater Office on Page 4*

**Virginia  
Archaeology  
Month  
October 2004**

***October 2004 marks the 15th annual Virginia Archaeology Month sponsored by DHR. Events scheduled include archaeology workshops at Ash Lawn-Highland, an active dig in downtown Hampton, Jamestowne Archaeology Day, and exploring archaeology at the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Created by Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, this year's poster interprets the theme of "Looking Back to Move Forward." Please go to [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov) for a complete schedule of events.***

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**Tidewater Region Office:**

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## DHR Roundup

### Help us create the next state preservation plan

DHR is still soliciting ideas and issues of importance to our constituents to help mold the next version of Virginia's statewide comprehensive preservation plan. This plan helps set the Agency's direction for the next four years.

Please go to the agency Web site at [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov), then the "What's New" section for the planning survey questionnaire. Fill out the Word document and return to **Catherine.slusser@dhr.virginia.gov**. If you do not have access to the Web site, please contact your nearest DHR regional office, or call the Richmond Office at (804) 367-2323 to request a survey.

### New members added to Historic Resources board

Three new members have been appointed to the Board of Historic Resources by Gov. Mark R. Warner. The new members are:

- **John Braymer**, of Richmond, President and CEO of the Va. Foundation for Architecture and executive vice president/CEO of the Va. Society of the American Institute of Architects.

- **Ora McCoy**, of Appomattox, project manager of Earheart Industrial Service and retired postmaster after 34 years. She serves as chairman of the Board of the Carver-Price Alumni Association, now working on the Carver-Price Museum and Educational Complex.

- **Helen T. Murphy**, of Mount Holly, serves on the boards of the Virginia Historical Society, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Menokin Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and the Garden Club of Virginia. She is married to Secretary of Natural Resources W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.

### Werowocomoco finds excite archaeologists

As the second year of digging draws to a close, the Werowocomoco archaeological site in Gloucester County continues to yield surprises.

This year's most intriguing discovery was uncovering the extent of a system of manmade ditches that form two parallel semicircles about 1,000 feet from Purtan Bay. Through radiocarbon dating of artifacts found, the ditches date from the 1400s.

In addition to the ditches, members of the excavation team

from the College of William and Mary continued to uncover portions of the village of Werowocomoco. A high concentration of artifacts has been found close to the riverfront bluffs.

Research work now moves inside for season, where the Werowocomoco Research Group will analyze the summer's findings. The archaeological field school will resume in June.

### Preserve America honors 5 Virginia communities

Alexandria, Hanover County, Lynchburg, Petersburg and Warrenton were recently honored as designated Preserve America communities.

The Preserve America initiative is a White House effort to encourage and support community efforts for the preservation of America's cultural heritage.

There are now 170 Preserve America communities in 31 states, seven in Virginia.

The next quarterly deadline for applications to become a Preserve America community is Dec. 1, 2004. Go to [www.PreserveAmerica.gov](http://www.PreserveAmerica.gov) for more details on the program.

— *Compiled by Sean P. Smith*

## Plan now for state preservation conference

**A**PVA Preservation Virginia, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Department of Historic Resources will be hosting the 19th annual Virginia Preservation Conference Sunday, Nov. 7 and Monday, Nov. 8, at the Charlottesville Omni Hotel.

This year's theme is "The Future of Preservation in Virginia: A Shared Responsibility."

A variety of educational sessions will be offered, each examining current issues and the outlook for historic preservation and

conservation in Virginia.

A host of preservation professionals will be part of the conference, sharing their expertise and experience with preservation-minded people, volunteers and professionals from around Virginia. Sessions scheduled are:

- Preserving Historic Theaters
- Primer for Historic Property Owners
- Virginia Main Street Program
- Rural Historic Districts
- Heritage Tourism
- Alternate Uses for Historic Sites
- Bringing the Public into the

Preservation of Public Buildings • Preserving and Interpreting African-American Resources

Virginia's presumed gubernatorial candidates Lt. Governor Tim Kaine and Attorney General Jerry Kilgore have both been invited to address the opening session with their views on historic preservation.

The full conference program and registration materials can be found at [www.apva.org](http://www.apva.org) or by calling APVA Preservation Virginia at (804) 648-1889, ext. 304.

— *Sean P. Smith*



# 18 properties added to Register

Listings include toll house,  
Eastern Shore sanctuary

By Jean McRae

On Sept. 8, the Historic Resources Board approved the listing of 10 new properties, 8 new historic districts, and boundary expansions for two previously listed districts to the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR). In addition, the State Review Board recommended these listings be sent to the National Register of Historic Places at its quarterly joint board meeting held at the 1884 Warwick County Courthouse in Newport News. The VLR is the official state list of significant architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources administered by DHR.

The newly registered individual properties are: **Hamner House**, Nelson County; **Tusculum**, Amherst County; **Boxley-Sprinkle House**, City of Roanoke; **Goblintown Mill**, Patrick County; **Lexington & Covington Turnpike Toll House**, City of Lexington; **New Dublin Presbyterian Church**, Pulaski County; **John W. Chandler House**, Northampton County; **Cokesbury Church**, Accomack County; **Fairview Cemetery**, Culpeper County; and **Sunnyside**, Rappahannock County.

The newly registered districts and district boundary expansions are: **Ginter Park Terrace Historic District**, City of Richmond; **Highland Park Plaza Historic District**, City of Richmond; **Oakwood-Chimborazo Historic District**, City of Richmond; **Henry Street Historic District**, City of Roanoke; **Suffolk Historic District, 3rd Boundary Expansion**, City of Suffolk; **West End Historic**



DHR file photos



*The Hamner House, above, was the home of the family that inspired "The Waltons." Cokesbury United Methodist Church, left, is one of the oldest surviving Methodist church structures on the Eastern Shore.*

**District, Boundary Expansion**, City of Suffolk; **Arlington Forest Historic District**, Arlington County; **Atoka Historic District**, Fauquier County; **Laurel Mills Historic District**, Rappahannock County; and **Rector-town Historic District**, Fauquier County.

The Virginia register is designed to increase awareness of the value of historic resources so that well-informed decisions can be made about their future use. Listing on the Virginia register is solely honorific. An owner of a Virginia landmark may be eligible for state and federal rehabilitation tax credit programs and may elect to donate a preservation easement on a historic property.

For information on these properties or any other programs involving DHR, please go to [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov). Nominations and meeting minutes can be reviewed at: [www.dhr.virginia.gov/homepage\\_features/board\\_activities.htm](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/homepage_features/board_activities.htm)

## Web hotspots

Click on the latest DHR news at [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov), "What's New?"

**Honor your Main Street:** The National Trust for Historic Preservation is now taking nominations for the 2005 Great American Main Street Award. Five communities will be awarded \$2,500 for their outstanding achievements in the revitalization of their historic or traditional commercial districts. Go to [www.mainstreet.org/awards](http://www.mainstreet.org/awards) for criteria, a list of previous winners and an application form. Deadline is Nov. 1, 2004.

**Save History, earn cash:** From now through Dec. 3, the History Channel is accepting requests for funding from historical societies, preservation groups, museums and historic sites that partner with schools. As part of its "Save Our History" national grant program, \$250,000 will be distributed. Awards will be announced during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in May 2005. For application guidelines and judging criteria, go to [www.saveourhistory.com](http://www.saveourhistory.com)

**Museum guide:** Haven't made it to Washington, D.C., yet? Do the next best thing by taking a cyber tour of

the newly opened National Museum of the American Indian. The Pamunkey Tribe of central Virginia are a featured tribe. Log on at [www.americanindian.si.edu](http://www.americanindian.si.edu)

**Newstand:** Keep up with the latest news from the National Park Service's Heritage Preservation section. Read what's going on at: [www.cr.nps.gov/HeritageNews](http://www.cr.nps.gov/HeritageNews)



### Director's Notes

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick

Will return in the Winter 2004 newsletter.

## Calendar

**Archeological Society of Virginia:** Annual conference, Oct. 29-31; Best Western Inn at Hunt Ridge, Lexington. Contact: Karen Lyle with the Upper James River Chapter of the ASV, 271 Sycamore Valley Drive, Lexington, VA 24450.

**APVA Preservation Virginia:** 19th annual state historic preservation meeting; Nov. 7 and 8, 2004; Charlottesville Omni Hotel, Charlottesville. This year's theme is, "The Future of Preservation in Virginia: A Shared Responsibility." Information: (804) 648-1889, ext. 304, or [www.apva.org](http://www.apva.org)

**Gunston Hall:** "Year In, Year Out: Seasonality in Early American Life," annual public symposium in decorative arts; Nov. 16, at George Mason's home. Registration deadline: Nov. 12. Call (703) 550-9220, or [www.gunstonhall.org](http://www.gunstonhall.org) for additional information.

**Virginia Commonwealth University:** 12th annual architectural history symposium, "Setting Style," Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond. Topics to include Virginia Palladianism, the Aesthetic Movement, and the American Renaissance. Information: (804) 828-2784.

**APVA Preservation Virginia:** Annual Preservation Awards; Presented to Virginia individuals, groups, or government agencies that have made significant contributions to preservation efforts. Nominations deadline: Nov. 29. Nominations may be submitted online at [www.apva.org](http://www.apva.org) or by printing out the form and sending it via fax or by mail to: APVA Preservation Virginia, Attention: Tara Olive, 204 West Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23220; fax, (804) 775-0802.

## Tidewater Office

*Continued from Page 1*

the site for the quarterly joint board meeting of the Board of Historic Resources and State Review Board on Sept. 8. All were welcomed by City Museums Administrator John Quarstein and given a history of the building and a tour of the 1810 Courthouse.

Only minimal and non-permanent interior modifications to the building are required to accommodate DHR needs. The most notable is the introduction of temporary office spaces in the second floor courtroom in a way that creates a large meeting space for conferences and training.

Formerly housed in Pythian Castle in downtown Portsmouth, the TRPO received notice last winter from the City of Portsmouth that the building had to be sold and the City could offer no other site. DHR then issued a Request for Proposals from localities in the Hampton Roads area to provide



DHR file photo

*The former Warwick County Courthouse dates from 1884.*

comparable rent-free office space and other support. The RFP yielded competitive proposals from both the City of Newport News and the City of Suffolk. Final site selection was based largely on strategic location within the service region, adequacy of facilities, and good lease terms.

The new address is 14415 Old Courthouse Way, 2nd Floor, Newport News, VA 23608. The new phone number is (757) 886-2807.

## Va. Council on Indians joins Natural Resources

The Virginia Council on Indians (VCI) officially became part of the Secretariat of Natural Resources on July 1. VCI was previously with the Secretariat of Health and Human Services.

Secretary W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. welcomed VCI at a reception in June co-sponsored by DHR and the Virginia Indian Tribal Alliance for Life.

VCI is an advisory board that consists of tribal representatives from the state-recognized Indian tribes of Virginia, Indian at-large members, and a citizen at-large member, all appointed by the Governor, and members of the General Assembly. VCI conducts studies and research concerning Virginia Indians, and advises the Governor on issues affecting their communities. The Council also advocates for public education regarding past and present Virginia Indians. In doing so, it frequently interacts with other state agencies, and has developed a strong partnership with DHR.

On Sept. 20, DHR co-hosted a reception with VCI to mark the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, welcoming Native Americans from all across the United States.

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### Coming this winter!

The 2004 edition of DHR's annual scholarly journal is in production. Look for the issue in December.



### Get involved! Help support historic preservation

Legislation passed by the General Assembly created the Virginia Historic Resources Fund as a means to support a variety of key historic preservation efforts including heritage education, landmark preservation, threatened sites intervention, and research. The

fund is administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and all donations are fully tax deductible. Make checks payable to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources/"Historic Resources Fund." Details: [www.dhr.virginia.gov/homepage\\_features/how\\_involved.htm](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/homepage_features/how_involved.htm)